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Public Is Invited to Comment on Budget Priorities



The City of Raleigh is providing multiple ways for the public to comment on the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. To help launch the City's budget development process, residents are asked to share their budget priorities for Raleigh. There are four ways the public can offer comments and suggestions regarding the budget:

- Visit the City's website to access survey questions about the budget. Print and fill out the form and mail it by Feb. 1 to the City's Budget Office at P.O. Box, 590, Raleigh, N.C. 27602-0590. People who do not have access to the internet can call the Budget Office at 919-996-4268 to have a paper copy of the survey mailed to them. The survey's results will be shared with members of the City Council;
- Visit the City's community engagement hub, MyRaleigh Ideas!, at <http://myraleighideas.com/projects/fy-2014-2015-budget> to participate in an online interactive discussion on the City's budget. Thoughts and comments generated by the discussion will be shared with members of the City Council;
- Email budget comments and suggestions to Alicia.Arnold@raleighnc.gov. Again, feedback received will be given to the City Council; or,
- Attend the City Council's pre-budget public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in the council chamber on the second floor of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St.

City Manager Ruffin Hall is working with City staff to draft a budget proposal that he will present to the City Council on May 20. A public hearing on the budget proposal is scheduled for June 3 at 7 p.m. The City Council must adopt a budget for the City of Raleigh no later than July 1. The City's fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30.

For more information, contact the City of Raleigh Budget and Management Services Department at 919-996-4268.

'Crowdfunding' Pilot Projects Kick Off



Residents looking to make small improvements to their communities have a new funding option available to them. The City of Raleigh is set to embark on two pilot projects employing a "crowdfunding" model of financing. The City is trying to fund two projects solely through small donations from its citizens. The City is partnering with the City of Oaks Foundation on both projects, with donations being requested through Dec. 31

The first project will be the purchase and installation of decorative bicycle racks. The Raleigh City Council included \$20,000 in the annual budget for new bicycle racks, but this only includes the purchase of standard inverted-U shaped racks. After several decorative racks with distinctive and artistic shapes were installed in Downtown Raleigh, the public response was overwhelmingly positive and the desire for similar racks throughout the City was clear.

To do so, the City will need donations of \$6,500 for the purchase, installation, maintenance, and fundraising fees for 10 of the "cooler" racks throughout Raleigh.

For the second project, Raleigh residents are enjoying the new, 28-mile Neuse River Greenway. However, the City has received multiple requests for benches along the most popular sections of the trail. The City is looking to crowdfund 15 new benches for installation on the trail. The cost and installation of a single bench is approximately \$375. The City is looking to raise \$7,800 to cover the cost of the benches, installation fees, maintenance fees, and the funding platform fee.

In order to contribute, visit <http://neighbor.ly/discover/search/raleigh> and choose one of the two crowdfunding options. Residents can contribute at a variety of levels. In a show of appreciation for donations, residents can receive simple gifts such as key chains and tickets for rides at Pullen Park for donations of \$10 or \$25. The gifts continue all the way to plaques with donors' names for gifts of \$500.

Make your community a stronger place and help launch a new fundraising mechanism for the Capital City with a donation today.

For more information, contact Dan Howe, 919.996.3070

City Issues Artist Call for World of Bluegrass 2014

The City's Office of Raleigh Arts is inviting visual artists to submit qualifications for a temporary outdoor public art installation to coincide with the International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) World of Bluegrass 2014. The event, an annual homecoming of the bluegrass music community, will be held Sept. 30-Oct. 4 in Downtown Raleigh.

The project budget for the selected public art commission for the World of Bluegrass 2014 is \$25,000, inclusive of all expenses including but not limited to design, fabrication, installation, de-installation, travel, taxes and fees.

"Integrating a public art project with IBMA's World of Bluegrass 2014 week highlights Raleigh's creative spirit and commitment to inspiring its citizens and visitors with new and innovative ideas, while at the same time emphasizing the partnership between Raleigh and IBMA that helped make the first World of Bluegrass in Raleigh such a success," said William Lewis, executive director of PineCone-the Piedmont Council of Traditional Music.

The selected artist/team will design, fabricate and install a temporary work of art that will engage residents and visitors in the celebration of bluegrass music, its importance as a cultural mainstay of American history, and the festivities associated with World of Bluegrass 2014. The artwork must use and enhance the space adjacent to and surrounding the iconic Sir Walter Raleigh statue in front of the Raleigh Convention Center at the corner of Cabarrus and Salisbury streets. Eligible artists must have demonstrated experience in producing public art events or installations in an outdoor setting.

All submissions must be delivered digitally to the City's Office of Raleigh Arts by Jan. 17 at 5 p.m. For application guidelines, visit the City of Raleigh's website.

For more information, contact Public Art Coordinator Kim Curry-Evans at Kim.Curry-Evans@raleighnc.gov or at the Office of Raleigh Arts, 919-996-3610; or visit www.raleighnc.gov.

The Office of Raleigh Arts supports and promotes the arts in Raleigh by administering the programs of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission and the City's Public Art and Design Board, and supporting the Pullen and Sertoma arts centers. The Office of

Raleigh Arts is a part of the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

City of Raleigh's Snow Removal Plan in Place; Crews Ready for Winter Storms

The official start of winter is just nine days away and the City of Raleigh is very much prepared for any snow or ice that falls on the Capital City.

City crews have already readied snow equipment, stored salt and salt brine, and made detailed plans for moving and removing snow and/or ice in case a winter storm hits Raleigh.

"We are ready for whatever winter will bring," City Manager Ruffin Hall said. "When a winter storm arises, we will activate our emergency inclement weather plan to clear roads and bridges of snow or ice and make conditions as safe as possible for citizens. The City of Raleigh is committed to providing the best service possible to our residents during inclement weather."

The City encourages residents who live or work in the Capital City to review their own emergency inclement weather plans.

Snow Removal Plan

The goal of the City of Raleigh's emergency snow removal is to keep major roadways and public transit routes passable for vehicles equipped with all-weather tires, snow tires or chains, or other special equipment designed for icy road conditions.

The City uses salt brine to treat roads during wintry weather. Salt brine is a mixture of salt and water that is applied to major roads, including transit routes, prior to a predicted winter storm. The mixture dissolves snow and ice as it falls onto the pavement. The City has the ability to make and apply salt brine. Although salt brine is not a panacea for treating roads in all types of winter storms, it is a proven and successful tool that will complement the City's other snow and ice removal strategies.

The City's snow removal plan calls for priority one (major thoroughfares) and priority two (Capital Area Transit bus routes) to be treated with salt brine right before a predicted winter storm hits. After pretreatment with salt brine, the City will spread salt on roads and bridges as soon as snow or ice conditions are detected. Snow plowing begins when the snow depth exceeds two inches.

The City has set a priority system for bridges and roads to determine the order in which salt is spread and plowing occurs. Under this priority system, bridges will be salted first. Following bridges in the priority system will be major thoroughfares, then all Capital Area Transit (CAT) routes. After that, the City will begin clearing major residential and connector streets, then all other residential streets if snow and/or ice conditions continue.

CAT bus service will be maintained at the highest level possible as long as safety can be assured. If conditions warrant, the CAT bus service will switch to special inclement weather routes, which serve as much of the regular transit routes as possible. Additional

information about CAT's inclement weather routes can be obtained by calling 919-485-RIDE (7433) or visiting the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov/transit.

Weather Emergency Policies

The City of Raleigh implements several weather emergency policies when unexpected weather events occur.

For thoroughfares, when the roads are not safe due to weather conditions, the City will declare a "Weather Emergency" and request drivers to stay off Raleigh's main roads until appropriate steps can be taken. Such emergencies would include icy roads, conditions when trees have fallen and other similar occurrences. The request for citizens to stay off the streets would be made through radio and television outlets as well as emails to local employers. Employers wishing to be added to the email alert list may do so by contacting the City's Public Affairs Department at 919-996-3100 or emailing chris.riley@raleighnc.gov. Also during declared weather emergencies, residents will be asked to limit cellular telephone calls except in the case of pressing personal needs.

The City of Raleigh also will communicate with other levels of government in Wake County and local media to coordinate weather plans. Priority will be given to helping school children get home safely..

On days when Wake County public schools are closed for the day due to inclement weather, the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department offers a program called Weather Bound for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. The program hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and activities may include sports, crafts, games, computer games, movies and outdoor play. Parents should make sure their children bring a lunch, two snacks, drinks, and a change of clothing. The cost of the program is \$25 for Raleigh residents and \$35 for non-residents. For more information, contact any of the three participating community centers --- John Chavis, 919-831-6989; Green Road, 919-872-4140; or Jaycee, 919-996-6833.

Equipment Readied

The City has two salt barns, one on Dortch Street and the other on Mount Herman Road.

"The two salt barns allow us to treat our roadways more efficiently, thereby helping to ensure that the public can drive to and from their destinations safely," the city manager said.

In preparation for inclement weather, the City has stockpiled 4,000 tons of salt for icy conditions --- 2,000 tons at both of the City's salt barns --- and 20,000 gallons of salt brine. The City is able to produce additional salt brine as needed. The City also has 42 trucks equipped with salt spreaders and plows, three City and contract motor graders, and a variety of loaders and four-wheel drive vehicles, all available for use during inclement weather.

City mechanics check the vehicles and equipment at least once a month throughout the year and make any repairs necessary before inclement weather hits. Each City employee involved in

street clearing knows their job and is prepared to go to work as soon as inclement weather threatens.

Personnel Needs

The City Manager's Office works closely with all City departments to ensure the City's emergency inclement weather plan is being coordinated. Heavy equipment vehicle operators from the Public Works, Public Utilities, and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources departments will be doing the actual salting and plowing work as well as some other snow clearing. But many departments are part of the emergency inclement weather plan, including Police, the Emergency Communications Center, Community Services, Inspections, Information Technology, and Public Affairs. When inclement weather hits, it takes a concentrated and combined effort to make sure the City serves its residents in a timely and effective manner.

"Everyone --- our departments and employees --- team up together to get streets cleared as quickly as possible," Mr. Hall said. "We also make sure that emergency services are available and active no matter what, and that our citizens are kept informed about what is happening at all times."

Information to the Public

One major part of the inclement weather plan is communications -- getting timely information to the public as it is needed.

Working with the City Manager's Office, the Public Works Department's Street Maintenance Division, the Police Department and CAT bus dispatchers, the City of Raleigh Public Affairs Department will provide updated information on current conditions and the City's emergency response to the news media as quickly as possible. The City of Raleigh also provides inclement weather information on Cable Channel 11 (RTN 11), the City government access station; Cable Channel 22 (RTN 22), the City's informational station; and on the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov. The City also will use social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter) to get pertinent information to the public.

Citizens should never call 9-1-1 to get information on weather conditions or road conditions. Only call 9-1-1 for real emergencies.

Anyone wishing more information about the City's inclement weather plan or preparations for winter storms should call the City of Raleigh Public Affairs Department at 919-996-3100.

City Selects Artist for Public Art at Downtown Remote Operations Facility

The City of Raleigh's Public Art and Design Board has approved artist Ilan Averbuch to create site-specific public art for the City's Downtown Remote Operations Facility. The sculpture is titled "Communicating Vessels."

Inspired by the tools and instruments of the various activities that take place at the new facility, the artist conceived a Cor-Ten steel

and granite curbstone sculpture that will be over 17 feet tall and 31 feet long.

"The title, 'Communicating Vessels,' alludes to the law of communicating vessels, a principle of physics that states that all interconnected vessels filled with water will arrive at the same horizontal height of water, regardless of the forms and volumes," said Mr. Averbuch, who resides in Long Island City, New York. "The departments of the Downtown Remote Operations Facility keep the City moving through their united efforts, not unlike the equilibrium in the law of communicating vessels. The sculpture is at some level a statement about teamwork."

The Public Art and Design Board's artist selection panel selected Mr. Averbuch based on his experience creating transformative site-integrated artwork and working with City agencies. The selection panel was comprised in part by a member of the Public Art and Design Board, a community member, an arts and design professional, and a City staff representative.

"Raleigh will be getting a striking and thoughtful sculpture by an internationally known artist," said Clymer Cease, artist selection panel chair and chair of the Public Art and Design Board. "Ilan Averbuch was selected from more than 200 applicants, and we look forward to seeing the artwork installed next year."

For almost 25 years, Mr. Averbuch has created public art sculptures addressing architecture and the neighborhoods around them. One of Mr. Averbuch's best-known works is the "Little Prince" sculpture located at Rose Garden arena in Portland, Ore. His artwork can be seen across the United States and Israel.

The Downtown Remote Operations Facility is a 12-building complex under construction on Westinghouse Boulevard, just east of Capital Boulevard and north of Interstate 440. It will initially house components of the City's Street Maintenance and Vehicle Fleet Services divisions and the City's Traffic Engineering Program. The site also will include public natural areas and walking trails.

Public art at selected City of Raleigh sites is authorized by the Half Percent for Art Ordinance adopted by the City Council in 2009 and implemented by the City's Public Art and Design Board and the City of Raleigh Arts Commission.

The Office of Raleigh Arts supports and promotes the arts in Raleigh by administering the programs of the City of Raleigh Arts Commission and the City's Public Art and Design Board and supporting the Pullen and Sertoma arts centers. The Office of Raleigh Arts is a part of the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

For more information, contact Kim Curry-Evans, 919.996.4688

New Venture Forms from Visit to Raleigh's Sister City in China

A potentially new product that could produce much needed water for China came about as a result of a visit to the giant Asian country by a delegation from the Sister Cities Association of Raleigh.

Representatives from AquaLine Systems Corp., which has an office in Raleigh, accompanied the local Sisters Cities delegation on the trip to Xiangyang, Raleigh's Sister City in China. During the October trip AquaLine unveiled a new product at a meeting called by Zhuo Yue, director of foreign affairs for Xiangyang. AquaLine is proposing to develop and install pure drinking water devices on vehicles manufactured in the Chinese city. The devices would capture, filter and purify water generated by the automobile's air conditioning system. The produced water could be used for human consumption or irrigation, among other things.

According to AquaLine's presentation, the average small car can produce up to 1.5 ounces of water per minute from its air conditioning unit. The air conditioner in the average SUV can generate up to 4 ounces of water each minute.

Chinese authorities were impressed with AquaLine's presentation and gave the company permission to further develop the product for one of the world's largest automobile manufacturers in Xiangyang. Following AquaLine's presentation, company officials and Xiangyang's government representatives toured a factory where the automobile-fitted drinking water devices would be produced and installed.

"This is a great day for AquaLine Systems Corporation, for the automobile industry and for the City of Raleigh because without the relationship of Raleigh Sister Cities with Xiangyang Government Foreign Affairs, the exchanges which lead to the development of this product would not be possible," said Harry Ruiz, president of AquaLine.

James Montague, chairman of the China city committee of the Sister Cities Association of Raleigh, also lauded the deal. "The automobile manufacturer in China has agreed in principal to start adding this water-producing feature, with the possibility of adding this feature to other vehicles that they produce," he said.

Mr. Montague and Raleigh City Council Member Eugene Weeks were part of Raleigh's eight-person Sister Cities delegation that traveled to Xiangyang.

The goal of the Sister Cities Association of Raleigh is to facilitate the exchange of ideas and experiences in the areas of education, culture, the arts, and economics. The program also promotes mutually beneficial relationships between the residents of Raleigh and its sister cities.

In 2011, 18 children from Xiangyang visited Raleigh for two days. Xiangyang is the second largest city in the Hubei province of China, the world's most populous country. It is a famous national-level historical and cultural city with a history of more than 2,800 years.

Raleigh joined the Sister City program in 1986. Its other Sister Cities are Rostock, Germany; Compiegne, France; Kingston-upon-Hull, England; and Nairobi, Kenya.

City to Observe New Year's Day Holiday on Jan. 1

City to Observe Christmas Holiday on Dec. 24-25

The City of Raleigh will observe the Christmas Day holiday on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Wednesday, Dec. 25. Most administrative offices will be closed both days. Emergency police, fire and rescue services may be reached by calling 9-1-1.

Because Christmas Day is on a Wednesday this year, there will be a change in the curbside collection schedule for garbage, recycling and yard waste.

Tuesday's regularly scheduled routes will be collected as normal. However all other routes will be pushed back one day. Residents scheduled to receive service on Wednesday (Christmas Day) will be served on Thursday, Dec. 26. Thursday's regularly scheduled routes will be served on Friday, Dec. 27, and routes scheduled for Friday service will be collected on Saturday, Dec. 28. Also, no collection service will be provided to the Central Business District on Christmas Day. View the Service Schedule for more information.

The Yard Waste Center will be closed on Christmas Day. It will reopen on Dec. 26.

Capital Area Transit (CAT) buses will run on Tuesday, Dec. 24, with final departures from Moore Square occurring at 7 p.m. Triangle Transit Authority (TTA) express bus routes operated by CAT are not running at all on Christmas Eve Day. All CAT buses and TTA express bus routes operated by CAT will not be in service on Christmas Day. Regular bus service resumes on Dec. 26.

City to Observe New Year's Day Holiday on Jan. 1

The City of Raleigh will observe the New Year's Day holiday on Wednesday, Jan. 1. Most administrative offices will be closed. Emergency police, fire and rescue services may be reached by calling 9-1-1.

Because New Year's Day is on a Wednesday this year, there will be a change in the curbside collection schedule for garbage, recycling and yard waste.

Tuesday's regularly scheduled routes will be collected as normal. However service to all other routes will be pushed back one day. Residents scheduled to receive service on Wednesday (New Year's Day) will be served on Thursday, Jan. 2. Thursday's regularly scheduled routes will be served on Friday, Jan. 3, and routes scheduled for Friday service will be collected on Saturday, Jan. 4. Regular service will be provided to the Central Business District on New Year's Day. View the Service Schedule for more information.

The Yard Waste Center will be closed on New Year's Day. It will reopen on Jan. 2.

Capital Area Transit (CAT) buses and Triangle Transit Authority express bus routes operated by CAT are not running on New Year's Day. Regular bus service resumes on Jan. 2.

Follow the City of Raleigh on Twitter



Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter! Twitter is a free services that allows you to "follow" people or subjects via short, frequent updates. The City of Raleigh now offers Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest news and breaking events. Currently, the City maintains the following accounts:

RaleighGov - This feed features links to any news releases and alerts issued by the City of Raleigh;

RaleighBPAC - This feed features information from the City of Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission;

RaleighParks - This feed features news and information related to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department;

RaleighPlanning - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Planning and Development Department;

RalCommServices - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Community Services Department;
RW911 - This feed features traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center;

RaleighGoGreen - This feed features news and information from the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program.

RalPublicArt - This feed features information about the City of Raleigh Arts Commission Public Art Program.

To follow any of these, simply choose "Find People" from your Twitter home page and type in the account name you are interested in and then click "follow." It's that easy.

Follow the City of Raleigh on Facebook



City of Raleigh - The main City of Raleigh Facebook page keeps you informed about events, holidays and other news items.

City of Raleigh Planning and Development - The Raleigh Planning and Development page provides guidance for the growth, preservation and development of the City of Raleigh in order to maintain a community of lasting value.

City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department - Keep with news and information from the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department.

Community Services Department - The Community Services Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagement and other 911 related happenings.

Raleigh Police Department -The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more.

Raleigh Public Art - Raleigh Arts Commission's Public Art program is an essential building block for the creation of engaging, imaginative spaces throughout the city. Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagement and other 911 related happenings.

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Raleigh Public Art - Raleigh Arts Commission's Public Art program is an essential building block for the creation of engaging, imaginative spaces throughout the city.

Traffic Alerts

For more City of Raleigh News and Updates on Road Closures, Parades and Road Races, visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov.

Street Closings

First Friday Closings

On First Friday of each month, from 6 p.m. to midnight, the 00 block of Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and Wilmington Street will be closed. This closure will also include the south side sidewalk of the block.

600 Block of Glenwood Avenue to Close for Sewer Maintenance

On Tuesday, Dec. 17, the City of Raleigh is closing the 600 block of Glenwood Avenue to traffic to renew two sewer services. Work will begin at 6:30 a.m. and is expected to be complete by 7 p.m. Businesses in the immediate area will be open during their regular hours. >Read More

December 31 Traffic will be affected downtown for the annual First Night Celebration. The 00 block of Edenton Street will be closed from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. The following parking spaces will be encumbered from 3 a.m. on December 31 until 5 a.m. on January 1:

- The 00 blocks of Davie, Martin, Hargett, and South streets;
- Parking spaces on the north side of the 00 block of Edenton Street;
- Parking spaces on the south side of the 00 block of Jones Street;
- Parking spaces on the 100 through 500 blocks of Fayetteville Street; and,

- Both City parking lots in the block bounded by Lenoir, Salisbury, South, and Wilmington streets.

Also, the 100 and 200 blocks of Fayetteville Street and the 00 block of Hargett Street will be closed from 9 a.m. on Monday, December 30 until 12 p.m. on January 1. The 300 through 500 blocks of Fayetteville Street, the 00 blocks of Martin and Davie streets, the 00 blocks of Lenoir and South Street, and the travel lanes of the 00 block of Morgan Street will be closed from 6 a.m. on December 31 until noon on January 1.

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